Name of the State	E.P.F. Dues	E.S.I. Dues
9. Madhya Pradesh	19.34	11.87
10. Maharashtra & Goa	23.60	38.36
11. Orissa	13.76	5.28
12. Punjab	7.08	2.21
13. Chandigarh	—	0.05
14. J&K	NA	1.61
15. Rajasthan	0.47	0.25
16. Tamil Nadu	6.53	0.27
17. Uttar Pradesh	31.82	24.09
18. West Bengal	80.70	24.16

Dave Committee's Recommendations

710. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee headed by former UTI President S.A. Dave has recommended that the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) should be allowed to invest upto 10 per cent of their incremental funds in equity for higher returns;

(b) what are the main recommendations of the Committee;

(c) what are the details of recommendations accepted; and

(d) by when these would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of the Committee are restriction on early withdrawals, deployment of superior financial portfolio management for obtaining higher rate of return, expansion of coverage of existing provident fund systems and improve the customer service of the existing provident fund system.

(c) and (d) The recommendations are under examination. However, no time frame has been laid down for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

Bonded Labours Engaged by MTNL

711. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has helped in rescuing 50 bonded labours engaged by MTNL contractors recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the action taken against the guilty officials or contractors of MTNL;

(c) whether his Ministry is aware of similar practice of engaging labourers through contractors by other Government departments or organisations/PSUs; and

(d) if so, the details of enquiry/ investigations, if any, conducted in the recent past?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The allegation regarding engagement of 50 bonded labourers by contractors in MTNL has been investigated. It has been found that they are not bonded labourers but have been engaged by contractors for doing temporary work of construction etc. for MTNL and are paid prescribed minimum wages.

(c) and (d) Government are aware that contract workers are being engaged by Government Department/Organisations/ Public Sector Undertakings through contractors for doing certain kinds of jobs of a temporary nature. These are being inspected from time to time as per the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 and appropriate action taken as per law. The details of such inspections carried out by the Central Government on the establishments falling in the Central Sphere during the year 1997 is given below:—

Inspections Conducted	3935
Irregularities detected	70,709
Prosecutions launched	3330
convictions obtained	2240